IN THE CLAIMS

A complete listing of the claims and their status is as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A multiple group of blades for an integral covered nozzle of a turbine comprising:

multiple stationary nozzle blades supported by a turbine stator;

multiple respective cover portions defining a first surface configured to span tips of multiple adjacent nozzle blades between tip locations of adjacent nozzle blades thereby to form the cover portions for adjacent nozzle blades and wherein the cover portions associated with each respective adjacent nozzle blade includes facing sides for adjacent cover portions of adjacent nozzle blades; and

an overcover coupled to a second surface opposite said first surface of said respective cover portions, said overcover configured to at least one of stiffen deterministic constraints of said tips and seal against leakage through said facing sides for adjacent cover portions.

2. (Original) Blades as claimed in claim 1 wherein each of said multiple respective cover portions include a tenon extending therefrom and through an aperture configured in said overcover.

3. (Original) Blades as claimed in claim 2 wherein said tenon is one of peened, welded, and brazed with respect to said overcover.

4. (Original) Blades as claimed in claim 1 wherein said overcover is configured having a thickness less than each of said multiple respective cover portions.

5. (Original) Blades as claimed in claim 1 wherein said overcover is one of welded and brazed to said second surface of said multiple respective cover portions.

6. (Previously Presented) Blades as claimed in claim 5 further comprising:

a material buildup on at least one facing side of the cover portions, the material buildup having been machined to develop an interface between adjacent cover portions of adjacent nozzle blades.

7. (Original) Blades as claimed in claim 6 wherein the material buildup is applied by a selectively mechanical or metallurgical action on both facing sides of the cover portion.

8. (Previously Presented) Blades as claimed in claim 7 wherein the material buildup is applied between cover portions on all adjacent nozzle blades thereby to effect integral covered blading.

9. (Previously Presented) Blades as claimed in claim 6 including a selectively applied underweld or underbraze between a cover portion and a blade tip thereby to effectively secure the cover portion to the blade.

10. (Previously Presented) A method of constructing equivalent integral covered blading for a turbine having multiple blades:

attaching multiple stationary nozzle blades supported by a turbine stator with multiple respective cover portions on a first surface thereof configured to span tips of multiple adjacent nozzle blades between tip locations of adjacent nozzle blades and wherein the cover portions associated with each respective adjacent nozzle blade includes facing sides for adjacent cover portions of adjacent nozzle blades; and

coupling an overcover to a second surface opposite said first surface of said respective cover portions, said overcover configured to at least one of stiffen deterministic constraints of said tips and seal against leakage through said facing sides for adjacent cover portions.

11. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 10 further comprising:

disposing a tenon extending from each of said multiple respective cover portions, said tenon extending through an aperture configured in said overcover.

12. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 11 further comprising one of:

peening;

welding; and

brazing said tenon with respect to said overcover.

13. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 11 further comprising:

configuring said overcover having a thickness less than each of said multiple respective cover portions.

14. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 10 wherein said overcover is one of welded and brazed to said second surface of said multiple respective cover portions.

15. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 10 further comprising:

positioning said nozzle blades adjacent to each other and applying a material buildup on at least one facing side of the cover portions of said adjacent nozzle blades;

machining the material buildup thereby developing an interface between adjacent cover portions for each of said adjacent nozzle blade; and

replacing the nozzle blades in a turbine after said coupling an overcover thereby forming equivalent integral covered nozzles.

16. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 15 wherein the material buildup is applied by a selectively mechanical or metallurgical action on both facing sides of the cover portions.

17. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 15 wherein the material buildup is applied between cover portions on all adjacent nozzle blades thereby to produce the effect of an integral cover.

18. (Previously Presnted) The method as claimed in claim 11 including applying selectively an underweld or underbraze between a cover portion and a nozzle blade tip thereby to effectively secure the cover portion to the nozzle blade.

19. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 15 wherein the material buildup extends beyond a circumferential outerface of the cover and a circumferential innerface of the cover, such extensions being subject to subsequent machining.